

**REMARKS**

**1. Objections Based on Informalities:**

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 7 to incorporate the Examiner's suggestion that the silicone rubber, organic matrix and silver particles be more clearly described as discrete and separate components of the claimed composition. Claim 1 has also been amended to comply with the Examiner's recommendation that the limitation regarding concentration of silver particles be made in reference to the composition as a whole and not just a surface of said composition. Claim 2 refers to a cured composition which is not dimensionless and therefore references to silver concentration levels at an exposed surface of the composition are appropriate.

**2. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph:**

Applicants have amended Claim 6 to ensure that there is proper antecedent basis for all language therein. Further, the various organic fluids which can be used as the organic matrix for the present invention are re-written as a Markush group. Reference to a "viscous" organic fluid has been removed.

**3. Double Patenting:**

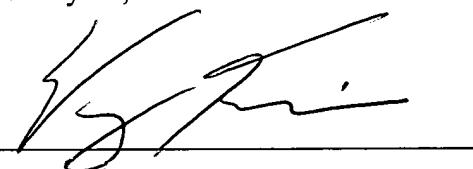
The examiner states that Applicant's failure to claim the silicone rubber, organic matrix and silver nanoparticles as discrete and separate components gave rise to a non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection. As Applicants have amended the claims to overcome this objection, it is respectfully requested that the double-patenting rejection be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants submit that this Amendment and Response, if entered, places the Claims in a condition for allowance and respectfully requests that such action be taken by the Examiner at this time.

Should a telephone conference be necessary to assist the Examiner's evaluation of this application, a telephone call to the undersigned at (305) 448-7089 is respectfully solicited.

Dated: May 17, 2004

By: 

Ury Fischer

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